EAST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1967

EAST ASHFORD (KENT) RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer
of Health and Public Health Inspector
for the Year, 1967

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1967.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 11,820 which represents an increase of 140 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live-births was 202 (118 M. 84 F.) a decrease of 2 from that of the previous year and the crude birth rate was accordingly, 17.1 which, after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and allows comparison with other Districts, becomes 20.1; this rate was higher than that of 17.2 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

No stillbirths were registered during the year. The rate for England and Wales was 14.8.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

The number of infant deaths was 5 (1 M. 4 F.) and the infantile mortality rate was accordingly 25.0 and was higher than that of 18.3 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were:-

Asphyxia due to:- Inhalation of Vomit - due to Gastro-enteritis
(Cot death) - 7 months.

Broncho-pneumonia: Mongolism: - 6 months

Pneumonia: Prematurity born at 25/52 gestation:
? Neuroblastoma: - 4 months

Perforation and Peritonitis: Volvulus: Congenital jejunal atresia:
Prematurity: - 1 week

Prematurity - 5 days.

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and deaths under one week of age) is Prematurity, Asphyxia and Atelectasis, Birth Injuries and Congenital Malformations and the most important maternal factor is Toxaemia of Pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Rate

This rate was again nil as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.

Total Deaths and Rate

The number of deaths from all causes was 145 (79 M. 66 F.) and the crude death rate was accordingly 12.3 which, after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, is reduced to 9.6 and was lower than that of 11.2 for England and Wales.

The chief group cause of deaths, as would naturally be expected, was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System; of these there were 65.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of 31 of those deaths. The age groups were as follows:- 2 between 45 - 54; 6 between 55 - 64; 12 between 65 - 74; 11 over 75 years. The majority of deaths were over 65 years, including 11 over 75 years and these figures, although small, conform to the usual pattern that the majority of these deaths occur amongst the elderly and the aged which would seem to indicate that one of the causative factors is due to a degenerative process, although the actual cause is still obscure, with particular reference to those who die in early life.

Cancer, as invariably in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths - 41 in the following age-groups: 1 between 35 - 44; 7 between 45 - 54; 8 between 55 - 64; 12 between 65 - 74 and 13 over 75 years. As cancer can be treated successfully if not too advanced, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of those patients sought medical examination too late.

Cancer of the Lung/Bronchus was the cause of 11 (10 M. 1 F.) of those deaths compared with 10 in the previous year, in the following age-groups: 1 between 45 - 54; 2 between 55 - 64; 7 between 65 - 74 years; 1 over 75 years. Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus usually occurs in earlier age-groups than other forms of Cancer, excluding Cancer of the Breast, and having regard to the fact that atmospheric pollution in the District is negligible, and that deaths amongst males invariably predominate, it may be assumed that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is a causative factor amongst those who have a predisposition to the disease.

Cancer of the Breast was the cause of 6 deaths in the following age-groups:- 1 between 35 - 44; 3 between 45 - 54; 1 between 55 - 64 and 1 over 75 years of age. Many deaths occur in early life, and taking account of the insidious nature of the disease, diagnosis of Cancer in this site is comparatively easier than other forms of Cancer and again it may be assumed that medical examination is sought too late.

Amongst the other causes of death there was no exceptional mortality. There was no death due to Infectious Disease.

Infectious Diseases

Measles

120 cases were notified in comparison with 94 in the previous year. This follows the usual pattern of outbreaks occuring every second year.

Measles 'per se' is not a serious infection these days and its formerly serious complications are now becoming less and less frequent, when they do occur, with the exception of Acute Encephalitis which is very rare, treatment by the Antibiotics is usually specific.

Whooping Cough

There were two cases notified throughout the year, which can only be attributed to the effectiveness of vaccination. Before vaccination begand to take effect, outbreaks were common and there were many deaths amongst infants due to Broncho-pneumonia.

Tuberculosis

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year and there were no deaths.

In conclusion, I would state that the Public Health of the District was very satisfactory during the year, and I would take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of and interest in the work of the Department and the staff for their co-operation and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,
14, Church Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel: No: Ashford 24411

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1967

Area:- 51,389 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	... ...	11,820
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	... ...	4,404
Rateable Value:-	... ...	£318,274
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	... ...	£1,240

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

East Ashford Rural District is predominantly agricultural in character - there are few light industries. The Council has been progressive in building 100 pre-war and 657 post-war Traditional Houses and generally social conditions are very satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.		East Ashford Rural District	England and Wales
1.	Live Births	202	118	84	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	17.1. (Adjusted Rate 20.1)	17.2
	(a) Legitimate	193	112	81			
	(b) Illegitimate	9	6	3			
2.	Stillbirths	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	-	14.8
	(a) Legitimate	-	-	-			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3.	Total live and stillbirths	202	193	9			
4.	Deaths	145	80	65	Death Rate per 1,000 resident population	12.3 (Adjusted Rate 9.6)	11.2
5.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	-	Not. Available
6.	Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age	5	1	4	Rate per 1,000 live births	25.0	18.3
	(a) Legitimate	5	1	4	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	26.0	-
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	-	
7.	Perinatal Mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week of age)	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 total births	5.0	25.4
	(a) Legitimate	1	-	1			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8.	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births					4.7%	
9.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					41	
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
	Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea					-	
	Deaths from Measles					-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

Whooping Cough	2
Measles	120
Scarlet Fever	3
Dysentery	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN EAST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1967

		Males	Females
	ALL CAUSES	79	66
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
16.	Diabetes	1	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	13
18.	Coronary disease, angina	21	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
20.	Other heart disease	6	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	1
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	7	5
24.	Bronchitis	3	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
34.	All other accidents	1	-
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1967

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	35	13	8
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria immunisation figures for 1967 based on the return sent to the Ministry of Health

YEAR OF BIRTH	PRIMARY			REINFORCING		
	POLIOMYELITIS	TRIPLE	DIPH/TET.	POLIOMYELITIS	TRIPLE	DIPH/TET
1967	43	63	9	-	-	-
1966	128	65	7	-	1	1
1965	21	2	-	-	38	14
1964	1	2	-	-	16	11
1963	3	-	-	2	4	7
1960 - 1962	7	-	-	83	23	62
1951 - 1959	1	-	2	2	[illegible]	-
TOTAL	204	132	18	87	82	95

SMALLPOX VACCINATION	
PRIMARY VACCINATION 1 YEAR	RE-VACCINATION SCHOOL AGE BUT UNDER 8 YEARS
76	1

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year

1967

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. H. MEURICE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. H. POOLE, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board

Council Offices,
8, Elwick Road,
Ashford, Kent.

To the Chairman and Councillors of
The East Ashford Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ending 31st December, 1967.

During the year difficulties were experienced due to an influx of caravans occupied by gypsies and other travellers who remained in the area on unauthorised sites. In the past these people have come for seasonal work but moved on after this work was finished.

Progress was made during the year on sewerage schemes. The Brabourne and Smeeth scheme was completed and work commenced on the Brook scheme.

The irresponsible minority still continues to litter the countryside with their rubbish. However, the Council's free service for the collection of bulky refuse which has now been in operation for over a year, has brought about a definite improvement.

For the second year running it has been possible to carry out general inspections of all premises covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN H. MEURICE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

The majority of the area receives its mains water supply from the Mid Kent Water Company, a small number of houses (23) are, however, served by the Folkestone Water Company. Only the more isolated properties are without a supply. Some 42 properties have a private piped supply. A very small extension of the main was made during the year so that mains water could be made available to one property south of the Royal Military Canal. In the Parish of Ruckinge four properties still obtain their domestic water supply from a standpipe. However, a scheme has been approved to extend the mains in this area so that each of these properties can have a piped supply within the house. The number of persons living in these houses is 12. None of the water supplies in the area is plumbo-solvent and no fluoride has been added to the water, One house on a well supply was connected to the main.

Examination of Water Supplies.

		No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Statutory Undertaking	Raw	-	-	-
	Treated	17	15	2
Private Sources Piped To Dwellings		-	-	-
Other Private Sources (Wells, etc.)		1	1	-

The two unsatisfactory samples came from the same house. An investigation showed that the service pipe from the main was defective and the contamination of the water supply was due to the very low pressure in this vicinity which permitted back siphonage. No samples for Chemical examination were taken by the department during the year.

Houses supplied from private sources (piped) 42
Houses supplied from wells, etc. 59
Houses supplied by the Mid Kent Water Co. 4295
Houses supplied by Folkestone Water Co. 23
Number of houses in East Ashford Rural District 4419
Number of houses connected to main during year 94

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year work on the Brabourne and Smeeth sewerage scheme was completed and work was commenced on the Brook scheme. Ministry approval has now been received in respect of the Old Wives Lees, Chilham, scheme (connection with existing works at Chilham Village) and the Sevington scheme (discharge into Ashford Urban sewers). It is hoped that these three schemes will be completed by late 1968. A good impetus has now been achieved and it is to be hoped that the present economic situation will not prevent its continuing as there are still areas within the District that urgently require this most essential service. Experience has, however, shown that a drastic slow-down due to economic difficulties always results in a considerable time lag between the ending of an economic squeeze and the commencement of work on schemes prepared beforehand.

Eight areas in the Rural District are now sewered or partially sewered. There are, however, a number of areas that still rely on cesspools or septic tanks for drainage but need to be sewered on Public Health grounds. These areas are as follows and are not necessarily in order of priority:

(1) Aldington Village.

(2) Mersham Village (partially sewered).

(3) Ruckinge Village.

(4) Bilsington Village.

(5) Warehorne Village.

(6) Boughton Aluph.

(7) Part of Wye.

(8) Ruckinge (Bromley Green Road).

The Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing a combined scheme for the villages of Aldington and Mersham. The combined scheme for the villages of Warehorne (East Ashford) and Kenardington (Tenterden R.D.) is also in the hands of Consulting Engineers. The Bilsington and Ruckinge scheme prepared by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor is awaiting final approval from the Ministry. This leaves only the areas of Boughton Aluph, part of Wye and Ruckinge (Bromley Green Road) to be dealt with.

Cesspools and Septic Tanks.

The Council provide for two free emptyings each year, this can be increased in certain circumstances and in cases of emergency. The work is carried out by the Council's Contractors. Due to labour difficulties, etc. during the first nine months of the year, considerable delays again occurred in the clearance of the tanks, but in the last three months things did improve. Over the past few years, expecially during the winter months, the service has not been up to the necessary standard due to failures for one reason or another by the Contractors. Because of this it was felt that we could no longer continue to rely solely on the private Contractors. The Council, therefore, decided to purchase a 1500 gallon tanker and to carry out a large proportion of this work by direct labour, the remainder of the work being done by the existing contractor. Due to poor delivery dates this change is not expected to take place until May 1968. It is hoped that a 7-day service will eventually be provided and costs reduced.

During the year the number of cesspools cleared fell, but only by a small number, the completion of the Brabourne and Smeeth drainage scheme making very little difference. This is due, no doubt, to the fact that many cesspools which at one time operated without attention are now causing trouble. The estimated number of cesspools in the district is 2644 and yet the total emptied during the year was only 2134 and many of these had at least two emptyings (last year's figure was 2180).

Drainage.

Total number of Houses	4419
Total number of Houses connected to sewer	1561
Total number of Houses not connected to sewer	2858
Number of Houses with pail or chemical closets (est.)	214
Number of houses with cesspool or septic tank (est.)	2644

During the year 27 houses were converted from pail or chemical closets, of these 23 had cesspool or septic tanks constructed and 4 were connected to existing sewers. A weekly pail clearance service (free) affecting 21 houses is provided by the Council in the Boughton Lees area.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION.

Registered Premises.

There are now 54 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, one more than last year. This total is made up as follows, last year's figures in brackets:

(1) Retailers of ice cream 44 (44)

(2) Preparation and manufacture of sausages and preserved foods, etc. 10 (9)

During the year inspections were made of all these premises. All the retailers of ice cream sell prepacked from one or other or the large combines and it was not thought necessary to take any samples. A total of 59 visits was made to registered premises.

Food Premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

The total number of food premises subject to the above regulations is 103. These can be categorised as follows:

Type of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of premises complying with Reg.16	No. of premises subject to Reg. 19	No. of premises complying with Reg. 19
Licensed Premises only	26	26	26	26
Licensed Prems.with Rest.	7	7	7	7
Poultry Processing	2	2	2	2
Butchers	6	6	6	6
Fruit shops	2	2	2	2
Cafes	8	8	8	8
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Confectioners	1	1	1	1
Canteens	1	1	1	1
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1
Grocers	44	44	44	44
Residential Nursing Homes	2	2	2	2
TOTAL	103	103	103	103

A total of 390 visits were made to all types of food premises during the year. As a result of these visits 49 informal notices were served (including verbal). All the premises were improved as a result. The standard in food premises in the area continues to be generally satisfactory.

Three complaints were received from members of the public during the year, these were as follows:

(a) Two complaints of foreign matter in bread.
(b) One complaint of mould on a gingerbread cake.

In each case the matter was taken up with the manufacturer and it was not considered necessary to take legal proceedings.

Milk and Dairies.
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959.

The number of registered distributors within the district is now 25 an increase of 4 over last year's figure. The number of registered dairies is now 3, a decrease of 2 over last year.

Meat Inspection.

Only one slaughterhouse exists within the district. Due to the times of slaughtering much of the inspection of meat takes place outside normal working hours. During the year 187 hours overtime was worked compared with 230 hours the previous year. The fall in the number of hours worked was due to an increase in the staff of the slaughterhouse allowing more killing to be done early in the day. Unfortunately this increase was only temporary and by the end of the year the number of hours overtime worked each week was up to that of the previous year.

During the year one hundred per cent meat inspection was carried out in spite of the further increase in the number of animals slaughtered. Although the increase this year was small compared with the previous year, the trend to increase each year continued as the following figures will show:

Carcases killed and inspected in 1963	2275
" " " " " 1964	2420
" " " " " 1965	2501
" " " " " 1966	3011
" " " " " 1967	3070

The slaughterhouse being modern in construction and equipment, presents no problems, and most of the meat from this slaughterhouse is sold in the owner's own shops and is of a very high quality. A total of 274 visits were made for the purposes of meat inspection. During the year 1597 lbs. of meat was condemned.

Unsound Food.

Diseased meat from the slaughterhouse was the only food condemned during the year.

Unsound food is either disposed of by burying on the Council's tip under supervision, or taken by Messrs. Eastern By-Products Ltd. for processing.

Details of Meat Inspection and Percentage of Meat Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	403	-	39	1424	1214	-
No. inspected	403	-	39	1424	1214	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	2	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	67	-	2	42	130	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or Cysticerci	16.625	-	5.128	2.949	10.716	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	36	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.240	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.96	-
Cysticersosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-

Number of Slaughterhouses in Use.

	Private Slaughterhouses		Bacon Factories	Knackers Yards
	Licensed	Operation		
Slaughterhouses/Abattoir in operation owned or leased by Local Authority Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil

Poultry Inspection.

There are two processing premises within the district and the annual throughput is about 200,000 head of which 17,500 are eviserated, the rest merely bled prior to packing. The percentage of birds rejected is similar to last year, about 0.3%, the weight being about ½ ton. The majority of the poultry processed are broilers and hend. During the year 11 visits were made to these premises. Our relations with the operators are excellent, full co-operation being easily achieved. It is hoped to step up the number of visits next year.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Unfit Houses.

During the year only a small number of houses were demolished or closed. The majority of the unfit houses on the original list have now either been demolished or made fit. The number of houses demolished or closed was 6 and one property on which a demolition order had been made was made fit.

(2) Improvement Grants.

The number of applications for grants fell this year, the total being 31 compared with 35. No applications have been received from tenants requesting the Council's assistance under Section 19 of the 1964 Housing Act (Compulsory Improvement outside Improvement areas).

(a) Discretionary Grants:

Only 19 applications for Discretionary Grants were received during the year compared with 26 last year. The cost of works involved was £21,163 and the amount of grant £6,225. An average cost of £327 per property, this shows very little change from last year's average of £331.

(b) Standard Grants:

Thirteen applications were received for Standard Grants during the year, 4 more than last year, but only 12 were approved. (The total cost of works involved is unknown). The amount of grant was £2,216, an average of £184 per property compared with last year's average of £160.

(3) Inspections - Public Health Acts and Housing Acts.

No. of inspections of dwellings and repairs 75
No. of dwellings made fit 40
No. of inspections for the purposes of Sections 16/17 Housing Act 1957 (Demolition and Closing Orders) 58

Improvement Grants and Standard Grants.

Total number of visits in connection with all improvement grants 339

Public Health Acts, etc.

Number of inspections re Caravans	301
Dust and smoke nuisance	36
Drainage and cesspools	262
Water supplies	17
Refuse tips	265
Refuse collection and litter	214

A. Houses Demolished.

Clearance areas Housing Act 1957	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec.43(2) Housing Act 1957	-	-	-
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec.16 or 17(1) Housing Act 1957	5	-	-

B. Unfit Houses Closed.

	Houses Closed	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(5) Under Sec.16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957	1	-	-
(6) Under Sec.17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	-	-	-
(7) Parts of Buildings closed under Sect.18 Housing Act 1957	-	-	-

C. Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(8) After informal action by Local Authority	40	-
(9) After formal action under:		
(a) Public Health Acts	-	-
(b) Sect.9 & 16, Housing Act 1957	-	-
Under Sec.21 Housing Act 1957	-	-
Under Sec.24 Housing Act 1957	1	-
(10) Under Sect.27 Housing Act 1957	-	-

D & E. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act 1957), etc.

There were no unfit houses in temporary use and no houses in clearance areas were purchased by Agreement.

(4) Housing.

At the end of the year there were 145 families on the Council's waiting list. The Council built 47 houses during the year compared with 50 the year before. Likewise the number of private houses built during the year fell to 68 compared with 87 last year and 118 in 1965, bringing the grand total of new houses built in the district to 115.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

At the expense of certain other routine work, it was found possible to give all the registered premises a general inspection during the year. The actual number of registered premises fell to 59 compared with 62 last year. This total is divided up as follows:

Offices	13
Retail shops	35
Warehouse	1
Catering establishments and canteens	9
Fuel storage depot	1

A total of 219 persons are employed in these premises of which 142 are females and 77 males. During the year 59 general inspections were made and the total number of visits for all purposes was 92.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(1) Collection:

The collection of household refuse is made on a weekly basis. Refuse is still collected from the kerbside except in the case of aged and/or infirm persons when the refuse is collected from the dwelling. This service is provided on request and there is no evidence in this area that such persons are reluctant to ask as is suggested by the Working Party's report on Refuse Collection as one of their objections to this system (kerbside collection). While one can accept that improvements can be made to this system, improvements can be made in most systems always provided the money is available, which it very rarely is in Local Government. I feel the Working Party were rather harsh in their criticism of this system when one considers the extra cost involved in providing the alternative system, that is, the paper sack system of collection from the dwelling. I think most people would agree that it is more hygienic and it does provide better working conditions for the refuse collection staff. However, it can only be instituted if the ratepayer is prepared to stand the extra cost. As a Public Health Inspector I should like to see this system in operation, but as a ratepayer I still have come reservations.

During the year the Council's three refuse vehicles travelled 31,503 miles and consumed nearly 3,000 gallons of Diesel oil. It is estimated that some 300,000 bins were cleared.

All the vehicles in service are of the modern rear loading compression type. This means that certain bulky items of refuse cannot be collected on the normal round and a free collection service of such items is provided by the Council by arrangement with the occupier. This is usually done on a Saturday morning.

(2) Disposal:

Four refuse tips are operated by the Council, of these four two are owned by the Council and two are leased from the owners. The whole of the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping. The tips are available to tradespeople within the Rural District for the disposal of trade waste free of charge. They are also available to the general ratepayers. This does, on occasions, cause difficulties as refuse is not always deposited in the right place. However, it does encourage the tipping of rubbish in such tips rather than on the roadside verges.

During the first three months of the year the tip at Aldington was still being used by the Ashford U.D.C. and during their 21 months stay nearly one half of the space available for use as a refuse tip was filled. The Ashford U.D.C. are now operating their own tip within the Rural District.

The maintenance of the refuse tips was improved during the year with the replacement of the old Ford Super Major tractor by a J.C.B.2 digger. This has proved to be a most satisfactory acquisition although rather more expensive on tyres than was first hoped.

During the year talks took place with both the Ashford U.D.C. and West Ashford R.D.C. with a view to operating a combined scheme of refuse disposal and a joint visit was made to Kidderminster to see an up-to-date refuse incinerator in operation. Due to force of circumstances West Ashford R.D.C. have had to go ahead with their own scheme, and an invitation to join with them on this operation was not accepted. It was felt that as tipping facilities were still available to us we should continue to make use of such facilities at least for the time being as the cost of joining in with such a scheme would more than double our present costs. As regards a combined scheme with the Ashford U.D.C., no decision has yet been made and the method of disposal has not yet been decided. Our existing tipping facilities should last for at least five years at the present rate of use, some 3,200 tons of refuse being deposited in these tips each year.

3. Staff:

The staff at present engaged on refuse collection and disposal consists of 5 driver/loaders and 5 loaders, one of the driver/loaders being engaged mainly on tip maintenance. Several staff changes took place during the year. Each of the 5 loaders take turns in the baling of paper salvage.

4. Paper Salvage.

The Council continues to operate this rate saving scheme. Unfortunately there was a fall in the amount of paper collected and also a fall in the prices obtained for waste paper. For some reason that I have not yet discovered, every other year shows a fall in the amount of paper collected as can be seen in the following figures, this year is no exception:

Year	Tonnage			Value		
	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	£	s.	d.
1963	170	17	2	1389	10	5
1964	182	10	1	1488	9	7
1965	161	16	1	1468	7	9
1966	174	-	-	1597	-	-
1967	163	4	-	1330	4	4

With the present day low prices the net income this year will only be about £500. However, it does make some contribution towards the rates.

Litter.

While it has been necessary during the year to make special collections of litter deposited on lay-bys and grass verges, there is no doubt that the situation has improved. It is to be hoped that this improvement will continue. It seems that the Council policy of providing a free collection of rubbish on request, which has been operating for two years is beginning to pay dividends, let us hope that this is one dividend that will not remain stagnant or be cut.

As far as possible weekly collections are made from all litter bins in villages and on lay-bys and during the summer months, especially after Bank Holidays extra collections are made in an effort to keep the countryside tidy.

Abandoned Motor Vehicles.

During the year five cases of what appeared to be abandoned motor vehicles were investigated. All these cars were eventually removed, one by Council workmen and four by a Contractor on behalf of the Council. The cost of removal was recovered in two cases.

CARAVAN SITES.

There are no multiple licensed caravan sites in the district. Individual licences have been issued in 10 cases for single caravans.

Unauthorised Sites.

A problem has arisen during the year as the result of groups of caravans being parked on unlicensed sites. Suffice to say it is to be hoped that before the end of next year new and more suitable legislation will be available to deal with this matter.

HOP PICKERS CAMPS.

Only two small camps are still in use for hop pickers and other seasonal workers. It is estimated that only about 20 persons used the camps during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

Only four licences were issued during the year, one more than last year. Very few problems arise, the owners being most co-operative.

RODENT CONTROL.

Over the past year there has been a decrease in the number of complaints, 150 compared with 191 last year. Surveys of properties carried out where no complaint had been received number 183 and as a result a further 164 infestations were discovered. Nearly 1500 visits were made in connection with rodent control.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1) Number of Properties in District	4768	680
2a) Total number of properties (including nearby properties) inspected following notification	264	-
b) Number infested by i) Rats	240	-
ii) Mice	15	-
3) Total number of properties inspected for rats/or mice for reasons other than notification	183	7
i) Rats	164	7
ii) Mice	-	-
4) Were any sewers infested by rats during the year	No	-

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

(1) Inspections.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of: Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1) Factories in which Sec.1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	Nil	-	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	41	57	4	-
3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	-	-	-

(2) Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	Prosecution (6)
Want of cleanliness	Nil	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	Nil	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	Nil	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	Nil	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not incl. offences relating to outworkers)	Nil	-	-	-	-

Outworkers.

Four visits were made to outworkers homes during the year.

JOHN H. MEURICE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.